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Diana T Fritz 05/24/2007 04:48:01 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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CONFIDENTIAL

SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

March 23, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1381 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: ASEC, AMGT, PTER, PREL, EAID, PGOV
Captions: None
Subject: TFIZ01 (EAC): ABU DHABI SITREP NO. 4, MARCH 23
Ref: None

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 01381

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: POL
INFO: AMB ADM RSO DCM P/M ECON

DISSEMINATION: POL
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM: RALBRIGHT
DRAFTED: ECON:CCRUMPLER
CLEARED: POL:STWILLIAMS RS:JROONEY PAO:KVANDEVATE

VZCZCADI479
OO RUEHC RUCNRAQ RUEKJCS RUMICEA RUEKJCS RUEHDE
DE RUEHAD #1381/01 0821256
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 231256Z MAR 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8999
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUMICEA/USCINCCENT INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI PRIORITY 2911

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 001381

SIPDIS

STATE FOR IRAQ TASK FORCE, ALSO NEA/ARP, NEA/EX,
CA/OCS/NEASA, DS/DSS/ITA, DS/IP/NEA, DSERCC, AND M

E.O. 12958: DECL 03/23/13
TAGS: [ASEC](#) [AMGT](#) [KHLs](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [PGOV](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: TFIZ01 (EAC): ABU DHABI SITREP NO. 4, MARCH 23

REF: ABU DHABI 1365 AND PREVIOUS

11. (U) Classified by DCM Richard A. Albright, for reasons
1.5 (B) and (D).

General Overview

12. (U) COM convened Abu Dhabi's Iraq Task Force/core
Emergency Action Committee (EAC) at 1000 local time, 3/23.
Embassy Abu Dhabi, FCS (located outside of the Embassy
compound), and the USGS office in Al Ain are open 3/23 with

full staffing.

Consular Issues

13. (U) The Consular Section is open for American Citizen Services today and will resume visa services on 3/24. The American community here has remained calm; CONS has not received a single call from worried AMCITs. In contrast, consular officers from other Western embassies in Abu Dhabi have reported a high level of anxiety among their citizenry since the onset of hostilities. Most embassies here released a travel warning only after the military action in Iraq had begun. CONS posited that our outreach program of warden messages and travel warnings prior to the war kept the American community informed about the situation.

14. (U) American business community contacts report no significant exodus from the UAE of private American citizens or U.S. companies located here.

UAEG Actions/Statements

15. (C) POL noted that the new Speaker of the UAE's parliamentary Federal National Council publicly announced yesterday that the situation in Iraq is the fault of the Iraqi leadership. Speaker Al-Kindi said that Saddam had been given the opportunity to leave, but had declined to heed that good advice.

Security

16. (C) Task Force/EAC members agreed to implement random security inspection of American and FSN employees, upon arrival to the Embassy compound. Those who are randomly selected will undergo inspection of their personal and other property by Embassy guards.

17. (C) USLO reported no incidents involving U.S. military troops in the UAE, and reported that our forces here are likely to move from Force Protection Condition Delta to Charlie on 3/24.

Local Media

18. (C) UAE Information Minister Shaykh Abdulla Bin Zayid Al-Nahyan reportedly requested the Pan-Arab "Al-Khaleej" Arabic daily to "tone down" its Iraq reporting. PAO noted, however, that "Al-Khaleej" continued to criticize the United States and focused on Iraqi casualties of war, carrying a full page of photographs of wounded Iraqi men, women, and children on 3/23.

19. (C) Shaykh Abdulla also told the Ambassador that all journalists held captive in the Iraqi Information Ministry building have been allowed to leave, but were being forced to file their reports from the building. According to Shaykh Abdulla, most journalists left the building last night for fear of their safety during the U.S. air strikes on Baghdad.

110. (C) Abu Dhabi TV aired Deputy Secretary Armitage's interview on 3/22 and 3/23. Secretary Powell is expected to appear on Abu Dhabi TV next week. PAO noted that only two Arab reporters -- from Abu Dhabi TV and Al-Jazeera -- had asked questions of General Franks in yesterday's CENTCOM briefing. The Ambassador noted the importance of placing more Arab journalists in the front rows at CENTCOM briefings to ensure that their questions were aired. PAO undertook to pass this suggestion to her military counterparts.

¶11. (U) PAO has updated the Embassy web page, distributed recent statements from Administration officials, and established an SMS text messaging service for local journalists and UAEG officials to quickly disseminate Iraq-related information.

¶12. (U) Abu Dhabi Iraq Task Force/EAC will reconvene at 1000 local time, 3/24.

¶13. (U) Iraq Task Force/EAC members in attendance included AMB, DCM, RSO, DAO, P/M, POL, ECON, CONS, MSG, OBO, PAO, ADMIN, USLO, FCS, FBI.

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